

The Paducah Sun

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THERE MAY BE NO CHOICE

Ex-Mayor Lang Claims There Is No
Way to Keep Out of Second Class.

The Council Must Report to Legislature,
or Repeal Ordinances—Citizens
Could Then Act.

COMPARISON OF CHARTER PROVISIONS

Former Mayor James M. Lang, who once opposed the move to place Paducah in cities of the second class, because he thought it would cause confusion during his administration, and badly impair it, but who is now in favor of the change, declares that there is no way the city can be prevented from entering the second class.

The legislature is compelled to place a city in a certain class when its population reaches a certain figure, and this population may be submitted to the legislature either from the federal census, or from a census authorized by and certified to by the city. When the legislature is apprised of a city's population, according to the ex-mayor, the legislature is compelled by an imperative provision of the statute to place the city in the class to which it belongs.

Several months ago the city council authorized a census, and the census showed that there are over 20,000 people here. The report was adopted, and became a part of the official records, and the mayor, city attorney, and council was directed by ordinance to present this to the legislature, together with other necessary papers, when it meets in January. This ordinance is a city law, which has to be enforced if the officials comply with their oath of office. The only way to escape enforcing its provisions is to repeal it, and that portion relative to the official report of the census takers cannot be repealed; hence any citizen can obtain a copy of the report, adopted and concurred in by the council, and present it to the legislature, and the legislature will then have to transfer the city to the second class, so thinks Mr. Lang.

According to this position, the only possible way to keep Paducah out of the second class would be by taking a new census which would not show twenty thousand people.

Yesterday The Sun gave some figures comparing the government under the second and third class. Today it has some more, and they will doubtless prove of interest.

In second class cities the office of tax collector is abolished, and the duties and salary go to the treasurer. This would effect no change, as it would merely transfer one salary from one officer to another.

The levy for school purposes under the second class cannot exceed 35 cents, while under the present charter it can be as much as fifty cents, and was fifty cents until the present year. It is estimated that \$10,000 could be saved on schools.

The city treasurer becomes treasurer of the school board without extra pay, saving the one per cent paid to the treasurer of the school board, \$400.

The city marshal's office paid last year over \$2,000. Under the second class charter the office is abolished, and the police chief's salary could be placed at \$1,000, saving at least \$1,000. But this cannot be done for four years, as the present marshal will hold office for that length of time.

The increase in city court revenues will amount to \$2000. All magistrates, under cities of the second class, hold persons charged with misdemeanors over to the police court, which widens its jurisdictions and increases the revenue.

The office of city prosecutor is abolished by the second class charter, and the duties may be imposed on the city solicitor; the name of the prosecuting attorney's office is changed to city attorney. The duties of both offices may be imposed on one without increase in salary. This, however, could not obtain in Paducah just now, nor for four years, as both a prosecuting attorney and a city attorney have been

elected under the third charter and must serve their terms. Under the second class charter, however, at least a thousand dollars could be saved, as the office of prosecuting attorney pays over \$2,000 a year, and requires but a few hours of time each day. Under the second class charter it will pay better, as the present incumbent, Attorney Jesse Gilbert, will continue to get 30 per cent of the fines and costs, and as the revenues will increase, so will his fees.

Under the second class the number of aldermen may be from four to eight, the number to be fixed by ordinance. If, eight, they get \$6 a month each, a total of \$576 a year.

The office of auditor is created, and his salary at \$1,500 would be an additional expense. The four police and fire commissioners would each receive about \$100 a year, or \$400. Hence it is estimated from the above that the total saving under the second class charter would be about \$12,000 a year, with no increase except the salaries of aldermen, auditor and police and fire commissioners. The biggest saving would be in the amount of money devoted to school purposes. The levy has been for the past five years 50 cents on the \$100 for the first four, and 45 for the present. Under a 35 cent levy, which is all the second class charter allows, the levy would have been 15 cents on the \$100 less for four years, and 10 cents the other.

The principal thing overlooked in the above estimate, however, is that the money proposed to be saved by abolition of certain offices could not for one to four years be saved, as the offices cannot be abolished, and the only objection heard to the proposed change of class is that the cost would now be so great that the city could well afford to wait until matters can be straightened out, and the city can enjoy some of the advantages of a second-class charter, without also having to bear the disadvantages under the old.

One great advantage in the second class is that it gives the city a right to have sanitary sewers constructed through any street or alley as the streets are—at the expense of the property owners, at a maximum cost of \$1 per foot. Under the third class charter not less than an entire district can be sewered.

Another advantage under the second class charter is in building new streets, and reconstructing old ones, at the cost of the property owners, through street improvement bonds, to be paid on long time at a low rate of interest. Under the third class charter this is done out of the public treasury.

Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

Rev. W. H. Pinkerton, the Christian church minister, will deliver a talk to the men at the Y. M. C. A. tomorrow afternoon. His subject has not yet been selected.

Rev. Geo. W. Briggs will talk to the boys this Sunday, and the two next Sundays. Rev. Briggs has prepared a series of talks to the boys and the attendance has been unusually large since he began. A large attendance is expected tomorrow.

After the men's service a social hour will be held as an experiment. Last Sunday after the men's meeting the young men met and considered the above plan, and thought it a good idea to start a social hour, and a ten after the afternoon services. The arrangements have been made for the holding of these sessions the remainder of the year, and if they are successful will be continued after the year has passed.

NO MATINEE.

On account of a washout on the railroad this morning the Shadows of Sin Company failed to get in time for a matinee this afternoon. The performance will be given tonight, however, all right.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Pace, who have been the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Muscoe Burnett, of West Broadway for the past week, left yesterday at noon for their home in Louisville.

THE WEATHER.

Fair weather and colder tonight with fair Sunday.

The Sun has moved to the old News stand, 115 South Third street.

WEEK'S NEWS IN THE BUSINESS WORLD.

Clearings the past week were \$595,019.

Business with the banks has been very active with money in good demand, and currency being shipped in from the money centers. The tobacco season opened up lively for a few days, and set things going lively. Christmas trade is starting off very satisfactorily, and the indications for the biggest year in the local trade is very fine.

The bad weather today has hurt business very much, and trade has been extremely dull.

There has been no change of consequence in the general wholesale business this week.

The wholesale grocers report the trade about the same and the commission merchants also report a dull trade. This seems to be the dull season with the feed men and little active business is reported by them.

The whiskey dealers report large

orders and good sales in the south and west and an increasing business.

Retail trade, is on a boom as the holiday buyers are doing an unusually large advance amount of buying.

The saddle and harness business is picking up with bright prospects for an early season.

The hardware dealers report a steady business with a light advance in holiday trade.

There is a great deal of new tobacco being delivered to the local warehouses and this week the dealers received something like 100 hogheads of leaf.

There will be no market however until the receipts are large enough to justify the demand.

The midwinter busy railroad season has begun and a large and increasing local business is reported by the I. C. The trains are unusually heavy and the yard force is reinforced to handle the business.

A MYSTERY.

Milwaukee's Chief of Police Writes
Relative to a Murder.

Railroad Officer Supposed to Have Been
Killed—Police Can't Locate the Case.

Marshal Crow this morning received a telegram from Chief of Police John T. Jansen of Milwaukee, from whom he received a telegram a few days ago, asking information about a railroad policeman found dead on the railroad track, and supposed to have been knocked in the head with a coupling pin and left there. He states that he will get the man, supposedly the one who committed the murder, but Marshal Crow can learn nothing of the case, which is supposed to have occurred about two years ago.

SMALL BLAZE.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MADE A
COLD RUN THIS MORNING.

The fire departments were called to the residence of Mr. Joe Flash, corner of Fourth and Madison streets, this morning about 7 o'clock, to extinguish a small blaze in the kitchen roof of the house. The blaze originated from a defective flue, and was speedily extinguished by the firemen. No damage was done other than the burning of a few shingles.

UP TO DATE.

Mack, Dr. J. T. Willis' faithful horse, is dead. He breathed his last Wednesday evening. Mack was a good horse and a rapid traveler, and had been for many years a general favorite.—Metropolis Herald.

Mr. Henry Rudy will arrive next Saturday from Hampden Sydney, Va., accompanied by Mr. Edward Herndon, of the University of Virginia, who will be his guest during the holidays.

IN CIRCUIT COURT.

The Arenz Case Still on Trial at
Adjournment.

There Was Nothing of Unusual Interest
in Any of the Courts Today.

The Gilbert-Arenz disorderly house case was still being tried at the close of today's session of circuit court, and was continued over until Monday morning.

The case was taken up yesterday, and at noon today was only half finished. The commonwealth has finished its side of the case, and the defense will begin testimony Monday morning. It is estimated that the evidence will all be concluded by noon Monday, and the argument will then begin.

The time of the grand jury was extended to the eighteenth day.

In the case of Pat Halloran against W. G. Thompson, a transfer of bid was made. A judgment for \$168.33 was filed in the case of the Guarantee Company of North America against R. and R. G. Geagan.

HARD FALL.

CHAIN GANG OVERSEER WOODS
MEETS WITH A PAINFUL
ACCIDENT.

Chain Gang Overseer Woods, who rooms over Terrell's stable, met with a painful accident last evening early. He was called to the telephone, and at the head of the steps his heel caught and precipitated him headlong to the bottom. He fell on his face, and received painful injuries, being unconscious for quite awhile. Dr. Robertson attended him, and he is not seriously hurt.

WOMAN DROWNED.

Williamsburg, Ky., Dec. 16.—Mrs. Mary Hays was drowned while trying to ford the river near town.

INQUIRY COURT HAS REPORTED

It Finds Cause For Censure in the
Schley Case.

The Findings Submitted Late Yesterday
Afternoon at Washington—Some
of the Contents.

VERDICT NOT ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED

Washington, Dec. 14.—The report and verdict of the Schley court of inquiry was handed to the secretary of the navy late yesterday afternoon. The finding had only shortly before been signed by the judge advocate general, Judge Lemly. Soon after the report reached the secretary it was given out to the public. This action was expected, and all day the report of its publication was anxiously looked for. There was an idea, however, as it was Friday and the 18th publicity might be withheld, but the idea was soon exploded.

The findings of the court are about three thousand words long. They are accompanied by a brief of the testimony of about eighty thousand words, giving the important evidence of each witness. This brief is of the utmost importance, because it presents the facts upon which the findings were drafted. There are ten specifications in the precept, and the court has given its opinion upon each. No recommendations contemplating further proceedings are made. Such a recommendation would be most embarrassing to the department which has no thought or desire to court martial Rear Admiral Schley or any other officer.

Admiral Schley, according to a majority of the court was found guilty of eleven of the charges in the precept.

Admiral Dewey dissents from the majority report. He finds for Schley. Dewey in his movements made all reasonable dispatch considering the coal supply, that the blockades at Santiago and Cienfuegos were effective, and he also says that Schley was the senior officer of the "Flying Squadron," at the battle of Santiago, and deserves all the credit for that glorious victory.

The majority opinion says Schley disregarded his orders, neglected his duty, was vacillatory and dilatory and lacked enterprise. He is called courageous at one point and then the report says he turned the Brooklyn because she was in dangerous proximity to the Spanish ships.

The first specification—the conduct of Rear Admiral Schley in connection with the events of the Santiago campaign—is so broad that it practically covers the entire campaign. Under it the court, has discussed, including the bombardment of the Colon and the battle of Santiago, and it absolves him from all charges of personal cowardice.

The second specification is in relation to the circumstances attending the reasons controlling and the propriety of the movements of the flying squadron off Cienfuegos in May, 1898.

The court discusses in connection with this specification Rear Admiral Schley's assertion that he and some officers of his flagship, the Brooklyn, heard the boom of guns, fired with the regularity of a salute, indicating the arrival of the Spanish fleet in Cienfuegos; the receipt by Rear Admiral Schley of the orders sent by Rear Admiral Sampson by the Dupont and the Iowa that he should proceed to Santiago, if satisfied that the Spanish fleet was not in the harbor of Cienfuegos, and the orders, sent by the Iowa, directing him to proceed with all dispatch, but cautiously, to Santiago; the failure of the commander of the flying squadron to communicate with the shore, except by the steamer Adula, which did not come out of the harbor until the arrival of the Marblehead; the neglect of Captain B. H. McCalla, commanding the Marblehead to communicate to Rear Admiral Schley the secret code of signals he had arranged with the insurgents, and finally the display of Ardis signals after the squadron started for Santiago, in violation of the in-

structions of Rear Admiral Sampson that the squadron should leave Cienfuegos without letting the enemy know of his departure.

The court thinks Rear Admiral Schley should have taken measures to establish whether the Spanish ships were in the harbor before the arrival of the Marblehead.

The voyage from Cienfuegos to Santiago is next discussed. The judge advocate general holds that Rear Admiral Schley was not justified in proceeding so slowly to Santiago. This is a point to which the court does not attach special importance, because Rear Admiral Schley's orders directed him to proceed cautiously and, besides, he had heavy weather.

There is, however, a very decided expression of opinion upon the next three precepts, which all have bearing upon one event. The first relates to the circumstances attending the arrival of the flying squadron off Santiago, the reasons for its retrograde turn westward and departure from off Santiago; the second to the disobedience of Rear Admiral Schley of the orders directing him to proceed to Santiago and not let the Spanish fleet leave without a decisive action, and the third to the condition of the coal supply of the flying squadron, its coaling facilities, the necessity, if any, or advisability of the return of the squadron to Key West for coal and the accuracy and propriety of the official reports made by Rear Admiral Schley, with respect to this matter.

Rear Admiral Schley admitted that if he had known the Spanish fleet was in Santiago harbor it would have been possible for his squadron to have blockaded Santiago for a few days, beginning with May 26, the day of his arrival twenty miles south of the port, and still have had coal enough to have reached Key West. Rear Admiral Schley gave four different reasons for the retrograde movement, the only one he placed in his dispatch to the department announcing his return to Key West being lack of coal.

BIG BLIZZARD IS RAGING

The Northwest is in Grasp of Big
Monster—Snow Storms Prevail.

Many Sheep and Herders Reported Frozen
to Death—Traffic at a
Standstill.

TWO FROZEN TO DEATH IN INDIANA

Chicago, Dec. 14.—The northwest is in the grasp of a terrific blizzard, which is being felt more or less all over the country.

Hundreds of cattle and sheep and many herders have frozen to death in the Wyoming and Dakota ranges.

A snow storm of almost unprecedented severity is raging throughout Indiana, Illinois and other states.

Much suffering is reported from all sections affected, and there is no prediction of when more moderate weather will come.

In many places railroad traffic is almost at a standstill, and business is greatly depressed by prevailing conditions.

ZERO WEATHER PROBABLE.

Louisville, Dec. 14.—The weather bureau says that zero weather may strike Kentucky before morning.

FAMILY DROWNED.

Nashville, Dec. 14.—Ed Reynolds, a fisherman, his wife and child were drowned at the mouth of Richland creek last night during the storm.

Their boat had blown from its moorings and capsized. Two sisters were rescued.

RAVING CRAZY.

PECULIAR FLIGHT OF A MA
IN LOUISVILLE TODAY.

Louisville, Dec. 14.—A man in priest's garb, handsome, with money in his pocket, and giving the name of Rev. John Cochran, of Minneapolis, is raving crazy here and was committed to jail this morning.

See James' column for farm loan terms.